Closure of Bharat Gold Mines

*407. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 945, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd March, 2000, and state:

(a) whether 120 old mines of Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Kolar, Karnataka, would be closed down from 31st March, 2001;

(b) whether the employees have been asked to give option under Voluntary Separation Scheme by 9th February, 2001;

(c) whether the Scheme would benefit the employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) after considering the matter for eight years passed final orders on 12.6.2000 concluding that it is just and equitable that Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) be would up under Section 20(1) of SICA, 1985 and forwarded its opinion to the Registrar of High Court of Karnataka on 30.6.2000. Besides this, Ministry of Labour, Government of India, accorded permission for closure of BGML *w.e.f.* 1.3.2001 under Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 *vide* their order dated 29.1.2001. The Employee Union of BGML moved High Court of Karnataka against the orders of BIFR and that of Ministry of Labour. The single judge bench of High Court of Karnataka has passed orders on 16.3.2001 quashing the BIFR orders dated 12.6.2000 and Ministry of Labour order dated 29.1.2000.

(b) Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) was thrown open *w.e.f.* 11.12.2000 for one month allowing employees either to opt for Heavy Industries package or Gujarat package. However, High Court of Karnataka extended the last date for opting VSS upto 28.2.2001.

(c) and (d) Under Heavy Industry package an employee is entitled to get *ex-gratia* payment equivalent to 1-½ month's emoluments (pay + DA) for each completed year of service or the monthly emolument at the time of retirement multiplied by the balance months of service left before normal date of retirement, whichever is less. However, all

those who have completed not less than 30 years of service, will be eligible for a maximum of 60 months of salary/wage as compensation. This will be subject to the amount, not exceeding the salary/wage for the balance period of service left (at the rate of monthly salary/wage at the time of voluntary retirement). Under Gujarat package an employee is entitled to get compensation consisting of salary of 35 days for every completed year service and 25 days for the balance of service left until superannuation. The compensation will be subject to a minimum of Rs. 25000 or 250 days salary whichever is higher. However, this compensation shall not exceed the sum of the salary that the employee would draw at the prevailing level for the balance of the period left before superannuation. Salary for purpose of VRS will consist of basic pay and DA only. Arrears of wages due to revision etc. will not be included in computing the eligible amount. Payment of bonus should conform to the provisions in the Bonus Act. Casual leave may be encashed in proportionate measure upto the date of VRS. Under these packages in addition to *ex-gratia*/compensation, notice pay, leave salary, TA for settling etc. are also given.

Beautification of Railway Stations in Gujarat

*408. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of works undertaken to improve and beautify various railway stations in Gujarat during 1999 and 2000 calendar years; and

(b) the details of improvement and beautification plans prepared and cleared for the calendar year 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Railways do not undertake any beautification works as such. However, improvement of Railway stations is undertaken on need based programme so warranted by growth in passenger traffic depending upon the overall availability of funds.

During 1999 and 2000 calendar years, allocation of Rs. 20.42 crore